

Minutes of CCA Conference Call – 30/10/2007

Co-operatives Legislation

- Nothing heard from SA
- Nothing heard from NSW – appear to not want to pursue mutual recognition – they want to wait until template legislation. Brian Given on pre-retirement leave – David Catt is acting in the interim. Have hired a retired parliamentary draftsman and that there will be a first draft of template legislation available by December 2007. NSW believes that any suggestions put forward regarding CCU's will be picked up
- James Howard spoke to Kerry Grant (NSW Registry recently. Just heard that QLD Registry now back in Justice area. David Catt said to be Acting for Brian Given
- James Howard queried CCU wording in WA Bill. PW flagged that there is nothing in the current CCU wording that prevents the points raised by JH now being addressed.
- Concerns raised that need to ensure CCU's put on a listed exchange did not automatically lead to co-op being reclassified to a company
- The shortcoming – whilst there is no prohibition to introduce a willing buyer and willing seller, there is no head of power for a Board to introduce a willing buyer or willing seller. Even though CCU is considered to be a transferable debt instrument, there is an argument that they could also be classified as capital, and possibly considered to be equity
- Query raised that a benefit of CC legislation is that ultra vires is removed – so why is there a need for any over-riding clause
- Victoria – why not send off a letter to NSW – confirming that template legislation draft will be available by the end of year and asking that it be pursued to ensure as best we can that core consistent legislation issues are addressed in WA and other jurisdictions at the same time and before the WA Bill is passed into law. HM agreed to do this.
- WA – Core consistent Bill is expected to be put into Parliament in late November (not to be debated but would then be a public document) – Assembly meeting dates in November
- PW asked HM to provide suggested wording changes to NSW CCU legislation as sent to NSW regulators (as well as JH's input) – so it can be tested against the WA Bill.
- David Griffiths to draft a letter and circulate to all for comments

Retail Workshop – per Helen's email 17/8/07

- Letters sent out to NSW Retail Coops (3 EOI from NSW)
- None from SA
- None from Qld with little prospects
- WA – a few strewn over a big geographic area – 2 or 3 that are interested
- Graham Charles to work with Helen and get something out in late November with the intent of holding it in May. (Nuriootpa location has drawbacks travel wise but has good story to tell)
- Draft program to be issued to all States for follow up

Other Co-op Education

- Defer the topic
- JH has copied disks referred to in earlier e-mail
- **TB to circulate NCBA materials to others**

ICA General Assembly

- Comments shared

A top 100 Australian Co-ops and mutuals list

- ICA putting together the Global 300
- Trying to encourage countries to come up with Top100 (Coops and Mutuals)
- David Griffiths currently gatekeeper of the list
- DG to put some notes together – and a process for developing a Top100 list that is CCA endorsed.
- Before being published – need to have concurrence of people that would be included unless list is derived from public information

ICA membership

- Proposal tabled
- Concern about entrapment – reassured that this is not an issue
- Opportunity to further facilitate and strengthen
- CCA as an Associate/Representative Membership
- Can something be documented and circulated
- CCA is an unincorporated association being used by the Federations to participate internationally
- Each Federation to contribute a small financial fee each - \$200 each?
- If CCA is able to join for \$5,000 a year for minimum of 3 years - with no fixed period and supported by 2 larger coops – each State would contribute.
- Looking for a minimum of 4 sponsoring cooperatives
- **Subject to TB contact Garry Cronin with an in principle approach.**
- A paper to be provided to each State Federation by TB – report back to all

Demutualisation

- A couple of members will prepare a brief public policy statement on the stance toward demutualization

Health co-operators

- Discussions held on interest in participating

Tasmania

- No federation in Tasmania – though there was interest in forming one
- So long as there was reasonable representation from the sector – they should be involved with CCA activities

State Federations update

- SA- recent AGM – New President elected
- WA – AGM on 6/9/07 with 60 participants and progress is being made with legislation
- NSW – organizing a housing cooperative conference in February – not just affordability of housing, life style choice.

Other Business

- Next meeting late February 2008
- WA to host
- Matters to be dealt with off line as needed